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Computer & Communications Industry Association

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VIA ELECTRONIC COMMENT FILING SYSTEM

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: LightSquared Subsidiary LLC Petition for Rulemaking, RM No. 11683; Request to Modify its ATC Authorization, DA 12-1863, IB Docket 12-340, SAT-MOD-20120928-00160, SAT-MOD-20120928-00161, SES-MOD-20121001-00872

Dear Ms. Dortch:

LightSquared is an FCC licensee facing electromagnetic compatibility issues not of its own making. Rather, some GPS receivers in use on the frequencies of adjacent commercial and government GPS licensees are too sensitive to block out transmissions within LightSquared's licensed spectrum. GPS simply got there first, and even though it has no right to use another party's licensed spectrum, GPS users have no real incentive to capitulate or transition to more efficient, technically disciplined operations. Therefore, via the above-referenced filings, LightSquared has again unilaterally proposed new accommodations to GPS designed to avert a total forfeiture of its licensed L-Band spectrum for terrestrial use. CCIA urges Commission support for these extensive good faith efforts at compromise.

Over the past several years, including during the development of the National Broadband Plan, CCIA has consistently supported new entry into the increasingly concentrated market for mobile wireless broadband connectivity in the United States. We have supported new entry in the form of unlicensed TV white spaces, and the innovative repurposing of satellite bands for terrestrial use envisioned by both LightSquared's planned nationwide wholesale 4G network and by DishNetwork's recently approved 4G satellite/terrestrial network. Both companies would create critically needed new mobile broadband capacity using spectrum already licensed to them. Incumbent licensees in both commercial mobile wireless and unrelated fields present a litany of both valid and dubious technical reasons for the Commission to block or delay these new entrants. Sorting through such claims is a painstaking but very important mission in service of the public interest in competitive choice for mobile broadband services.

Even without spectrum interference objections, the barriers to entry in the telecommunications network business are monumental. Two former monopolies control most of the wired infrastructure upon which their smaller wireless competitors must depend for backhaul, and in fact control the two largest wireless networks. Only two other carriers, Sprint and T-Mobile have managed to build out nationwide wireless networks. Despite massive investment and a decade of effort, Clearwire has found some success only in the most dense urban markets and is not profitable.

LightSquared's business plan, backed up by billions of dollars in new investment, would bring an additional facilities-based competitor to the most concentrated wholesale portion of the wireless market. It will enable consumer electronics retailers, device manufacturers, and many smaller carriers to offer mobile wireless service with a national footprint reaching into chronically unserved and underserved rural areas.

Under LightSquared's newest innovative plan for an Ancillary Terrestrial Component (ATC) associated with its Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) L-Band licenses, it will permanently relinquish its right to deploy terrestrial downlink operations at 1545-1555 MHz and relocate those terrestrial operations. This will provide GPS receivers with an additional 10 MHz guardband from terrestrial transmissions and allow LightSquared to proceed with deployment of its network. Meanwhile, in order to allow the Commission to consider a rulemaking petition to revise the rules for LightSquared's 1526-1536 downlink band, for which it already has ATC authorization, it will temporarily refrain from terrestrial deployment in that band.

Available spectrum is useless for mobile broadband if 20th Century licensees are allowed to insist in perpetuity on the same overly generous "padding" of protection around their own frequencies as they originally enjoyed on a de facto basis by default, and still do today. The days of spectrum abundance and primitive receiver technology are officially over in the 21st century. Allowing neighboring legacy licensees to dictate gross limitations on future use of adjacent frequencies would set very bad spectrum management precedent that could well reduce revenue from upcoming incentive auctions. The FCC must facilitate ways its licensees can co-exist and operate alongside each other to serve the public interest in both GPS services and mobile broadband.

Sincerely,



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VP, Government Relations
Computer & Communications Industry Association

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